

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5           1.     A method for verifying medical device settings within a healthcare system comprising the steps of:

          transmitting data relating to operational parameters from the medical device to a first computer;

          storing data relating to an order in a memory of the first computer; and,

10           comparing at least one of the operational parameters sent from the medical device to at least a portion of the order.

          2.     The method for verifying medical device settings of claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting a comparison result signal.

15           3.     The method for verifying medical device settings of claim 2, further comprising the step of transmitting the comparison result signal from the first computer to a remote computer.

          4.     The method for verifying medical device settings of claim 3, wherein the remote computer is a wireless handheld device, and further comprising the step of transmitting a wireless comparison result signal to the wireless handheld device.

20           5.     The method for verifying medical device settings of claim 1, wherein the transmission of operational parameters is secure.

          6.     The method for verifying medical device settings of claim 6, wherein the transmission of operational parameters is secure.

25           7.     The method for verifying medical device settings of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing for transmitting the order data from a second computer to the first computer.

          8.     The method for verifying medical device settings of claim 7, wherein the transmission of the order data from the second computer to a first computer is via a secure communication line.

30           9.     The method for verifying medical device settings of claim 1, wherein the data relating to the order comprises data for a patient identifier and a prescription identifier.

          10.    The method for verifying medical device settings of claim 1, wherein the operational parameters comprise settings manually programmed into the medical device.

          11.    The method for verifying medical device settings of claim 1, wherein the

operational parameters are downloaded into the medical device from the first computer.

12. The method for verifying medical device settings of claim 1, wherein the operational parameters are downloaded into the medical device from a remote computer.

13. The method for verifying medical device settings of claim 1, further comprising the step of comparing a primary/piggyback operational parameter.

14. The method for verifying medical device settings of claim 1, wherein the medical device is a pump controller.

15. The method for verifying medical device settings of claim 14, wherein the pump controller controls an in-line MEMS device.

16. A method for comparing medical device settings to orders within a healthcare system comprising the steps of:

transmitting data relating to programmed settings from the medical device to a first computer;

storing the data relating to settings in the memory of the first computer;

storing data relating to an order in a memory of the first computer;

comparing data from at least one of the settings sent from the medical device to data from at least a portion of the order; and,

transmitting a comparison result signal to a remote computer.

17. The method for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 16, wherein the data relating to settings comprises at least a programmed infusion rate, wherein the data relating to the order comprises at least a prescribed infusion rate, and wherein the step of comparing data comprises the step of comparing the programmed infusion rate to the prescribed infusion rate.

18. The method for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 16, wherein the data relating to settings comprises at least a programmed infusion dose, wherein the data relating to the order comprises at least a prescribed infusion dose, and wherein the step of comparing data comprises the step of comparing the programmed infusion dose to the prescribed infusion dose.

19. The method for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 16, wherein the data relating to settings comprises at least a programmed infusion volume, wherein the data relating to the order comprises at least a prescribed infusion volume, and wherein the step of comparing data comprises the step of comparing the programmed infusion volume to the prescribed infusion volume.

20. The method for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 16, further

comprising the step of linking a patient identifier and an order identifier.

21. The method for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 20, further comprising the step of linking a pumping channel with the patient identifier and the order identifier.

5 22. The method for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 20, further comprising the steps of precluding a comparison of the data transmitted from the medical device to the data in the order where a link between the patient identifier and the order identifier is not established.

10 23. The method for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 16, further comprising the step of checking if the data transmitted to the first computer relating to settings from the medical device is fresh data.

24. The method for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 23, further comprising the step of requesting new data if the data transmitted to the first computer relating to settings from the medical device is not fresh data.

15 25. The method for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 16, further comprising the step of accepting a mismatched comparison result.

26. The method for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 25, further comprising the step of recording an administration result.

20 27. The method for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 16, further comprising the step of recording an administration result.

28. The method for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a mismatch comparison result to the remote computer;

transmitting new data relating to settings from the medical device to the first computer;

25 storing the new data relating to settings in the memory of the first computer;

comparing at least one of the settings of the new data sent from the medical device to data from at least a portion of the order; and,

transmitting a new comparison result signal to the remote computer.

30 29. The method for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 16, further comprising the step of transmitting a cannot compare signal if channel data is erroneous.

30. A system for comparing medical device settings to orders within a healthcare system, comprising:

a medical device having a communication interface for transmitting data relating to operational parameters of the medical device; and,

a first computer having a communication interface for receiving the data relating to the medical device's operational parameters and for receiving data relating to a medication order, the first computer further having a memory for storing the data, a processor for comparing at least one of the operational parameters sent from the medical device to at least a portion of the order, and a transmitter for transmitting a comparison result signal of the comparison results to a remote computer.

31. The system for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 30, further comprising a wireless transmitter electrically connected to the medical device to send a wireless signal containing the data relating to the medical device's operational parameters to the first computer.

32. The system for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 30, further comprising a second computer that sends the data relating to the medication order to the first computer.

33. The system for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 30, wherein the remote computer is a wireless handheld device.

34. The system for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 30, further comprising a second computer that sends patient information data to the first computer.

35. The system for comparing medical device settings to orders of claim 34, wherein the patient information comprises at least one of patient identification, room assignment, bed assignment, and admission status.